

Claims 1-40 are cancelled.

41. (new) A signal quality testing apparatus for an optical disk of the type that stores optically readable information in the form of a spiral or annular pattern defining a plurality of concentric tracks, comprising:

an optical read device;

a drive mechanism adapted to move the optical read device radially over a portion of the disk surface across at least some of said tracks; and

a processing device adapted to select portions of a time variant measurement signal received from said optical read device, said measurement signal being associated with passages of the moving optical read device across respective tracks, and wherein the processing device is adapted to measure a signal amplitude in said portions, wherein said signal amplitude being measured in said portions as to identify at least one signal pattern associated with said signal information in said tracks.

42. (new) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the processing device receives the measurement signal from an analog to digital converter operatively coupled between the optical card device and the processing device.

43. (new) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the processing device further comprises memory means for storing program instructions and/or measurement data.

44. (new) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the processing device comprises a controller in the form of a field-programmable gate array.

45. (new) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the processing device comprises a controller in the form of an application specific integrated circuit.

46. (new) The signal quality testing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the processing device comprises a controller in the form of a microprocessor.

47. (new) A method for testing signal quality of an optical disk of the type that stores optically readable information in the form of a spiral or annular pattern defining a plurality of concentric tracks, comprising the steps of:

scanning an optical read device radially over at least a portion of a surface of the optical disk across at least some of said tracks;

producing a time variant measurement signal associated with passages of the optical read device across respective tracks;

selecting at least one portion of the measurement signal comprising information related to a single track;

measuring a signal amplitude in said portions, and

identifying from the measured signal amplitude in said portions at least one bit pattern associated with the information in said tracks.

48. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein said portion of the measurement signal is compensated for effects related to the radial scanning.

49. (new) The method according to claim 48, wherein the compensation comprises the step of applying an inverse envelope signal to the measurement signal.

50. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein the bit pattern is at least a first I_3 bit pattern.

51. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein the bit pattern is at least a first I_{11} or I_{14} bit pattern.

52. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein the bit pattern is at least a first I_{TOP} bit pattern.

53. (new) The method according to claim 47, wherein the speed by which the radial scanning is performed is lower than the track speed.

54. (new) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of: calculating the ration I_3/I_{TOP} and I_{11}/I_{TOP} .

55. (new) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of: determining a level of symmetry of the I_3 and I_{11} bit pattern.

56. (new) A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for processing by a processor, said processor being operatively coupled to an optical read device and a drive mechanism adapted to move the optical read device radially over a portion of the surface of a disk, said disk being of the type that stores optically readable information in the form of a spiral or annular pattern defining a plurality of concentric tracks, across at least some of said tracks as to produce a time variant measurement signal, said computer program comprising:

- a code segment for selecting at least one portion of the time variant measurement signal when executed by said processor, and

- a code segment for measuring a signal amplitude in the portions when executed by the processor.

57. (new) A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program for processing by a processor, said processor being operatively coupled to an optical read device and a drive mechanism adapted to move the optical read device radially over a portion of the disk surface across at least some of said tracks as to produce a time variant measurement signal, said computer program comprising:

- a code segment for selecting at least one portion of the time variant measurement signal when executed by said processor, and

- a code segment for measuring a signal amplitude in said portions.